

Beer Drought Hits City as Doran Arrives

Flow Dammed as Agents Place 24-Hour Watch on Leading Breweries

There is a drought of beer in Newark and neighboring towns. A shortage of the beverage of the "nearer" quality has become apparent as a result of government agents beginning a systematic watch of breweries in this city, Harrison and Elizabeth. Today, marked by a visit here of Dr. James M. Doran, national commissioner of prohibition, the shortage was declared acute by some speakeasy proprietors.

Dr. Doran's itinerary includes an address on education for law enforcement before a conference this afternoon of the New Jersey committee, Woman's National Committee for Law Enforcement at Sayre Hall in the Y. W. C. A.

Some saloons have been unable to serve their patrons with beer of a satisfying alcoholic content for a week. Others have been able to obtain a moderate quantity that they consider up to the mark but the owners venture the opinion that, had the thermometer continued to register the higher temperatures of last week, they, too, would have had to fall back on real near-beer. Nearly all have on hand a supply of this for unknown customers.

Surveillance of breweries hereabouts was intensified last week when government agents took up the watch in the brewery neighborhoods on a twenty-four-hour basis, three men taking turns in eight-hour shifts. Some have been recognized as of the local prohibition force. Others are believed to have been sent here from Washington. The watch has thrown additional difficulty around the nightly operation of trucks from the breweries.

Traced to Conference.

The agents' activities are traced to the conference May 23 at Washington between Dr. Doran and Captain Edwin S. Ross, regional prohibition administrator of New Jersey. It was felt in Washington that the beer situation in New Jersey was far from satisfactory. Captain Ross returned home with many new thoughts on enforcement which he immediately put into execution.

Word of the Washington discussion worried speakeasy proprietors here. Their supply was the steadiest it had been since enactment of the prohibition law and they had been doing a brisk business.

They worried over the possibility of the supply being shut off with the advent of hot weather—beer drinking weather—and the raid last week of a Commerce street lunch room where "good" beer could be had did not tend to set their fears at rest. Seizure in Union City of a truck carrying 150 barrels of real beer a day or so after Captain Ross's Washington visit was another straw indicating the rising of an ill wind.

"Thrill Is Greater."

A beer merchant who supplies many saloons throughout Essex, Hudson and Union counties declared today that while beer is scarce there was some yet to be had. He said he would be able to keep his regular customers supplied with about the same quantity which he furnished during the colder months, but was seeking no new customers and would not be able to cope with the increased demand expected with the advent of hot weather.

"There will always be some beer to be had," said this man. "A shortage may force the price up and the risk of running in the supply will be greater, but—it isn't the money alone we're after; there is a great thrill in running beer and now that the lines are being drawn closer, we find that thrill much greater."

The arrival of Dr. Doran was awaited with interest by observers of prohibition enforcement.

He is expected to visit the state dry headquarters in the Industrial Office building and confer with Prohibition Administrator Ross and members of his staff.

Dr. Doran may see Rev. Marna S. Poulson, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of New Jersey. Mr. Poulson says he has information concerning dry enforcement in Newark and other portions of the state which he will impart to the national dry chief with whom he has frequently conferred in Washington.

HERE TODAY



Dr. James M. Doran.

Embezzler Put On Probation

"Wrong Crowd" and "High Living" Blamed by Former Bank Teller

On his plea of guilty to a charge of embezzling \$431.29 from the National Newark & Essex Banking Co., where he was employed as a teller, Nathan Sanders, twenty-two, of 872 Hunterdon street told Federal Judge Fake today that "running around with the wrong crowd and living too high" was responsible for his predicament.

As restitution has been made, Judge Fake suspended sentence and placed Sanders on six months' probation. The judge also asked Sander's counsel, Philip Klein, to keep a careful check on his client.

The embezzlement occurred during 1928, the court was informed.

In fining Sam Blackie and Vito Gruppuro \$500 each and placing them on one-year probation on their pleas of guilty to charges of maintaining a still in the rear of 25 Sayre street, Judge Fake said:

"Stills are more serious than speak-easies. The way to dry up the country is to get these places."

Samuel Hutzik was fined \$500 and placed on probation for one year on his plea of guilty to a charge of possession and sale of liquor in a saloon at 159 Mulberry street. The cafe was referred to by Assistant United States District Attorney Fred Herrigel Jr. as "one of those Mulberry street dives." The saloon has been padlocked.

"I Refuse to Answer."

A \$500 fine and probation for two years constituted the sentence Judge Fake imposed on John M. O'Connor on his plea of guilty to possession and sale of liquor in a saloon at 710 Summit avenue, Jersey City. O'Connor pleaded not guilty to a charge of manufacturing beer, and the court ordered his trial on that count.

Attracted by O'Connor's youthful appearance, Judge Fake sought to learn how O'Connor happened to enter the saloon business. The court asked the identity of persons from whom O'Connor had purchased the place.

"I refuse to answer," O'Connor said.